



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Washington, D.C. 20250



SEP 3 0 2019

Mr. Sam Richards
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 70784
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, Massachusetts 02144-2516

Subject: Log No. 19-00046

Dear Mr. Richards:

This letter responds to your March 22, 2019, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)¹ request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Office of Inspector General (OIG). You requested records regarding any "real or potential conflicts of interest" of Secretary Sonny Perdue with certain named entities.

We conducted a search of OIG records based upon the information provided and found no records that are responsive to your request.

You have the right to appeal the decision by OIG to withhold information by writing to the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Whitten Building, Suite 441-E, Washington DC 20250-2308. Your appeal must be received within 90 days of this letter. The outside of the envelope should be clearly marked "FOIA APPEAL."

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

You have the right to seek the assistance of the OIG FOIA Public Liaison. You can also seek dispute resolution services from the OIG FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS).

As part of the 2007 FOIA amendments, OGIS was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS' services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. If you are

¹ 5 U.S.C. § 552.

Mr. Sam Richards

Page 2

requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974.

You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
{OGIS} 8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Phone: (202) 741-5770
Fax: (202) 741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>

For information about OIG, please refer to our Web site at www.usda.gov/oig/about.htm.
Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact our office at (202) 720-5677.

Sincerely,



Alison Decker
Assistant Counsel